

A NEW CALIFORNIA EPICAUTA

(Coleoptera, Meloidæ)

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In the spring of 1931, while on a collecting trip to the Death Valley region, Mr. Joseph R. Slevin, curator of herpetology of the California Academy of Sciences, collected in the Panamint Valley, a series of nine specimens of a very striking *Epicauta* which appears to be undescribed. These beetles were taken on the flowers of a thorny tree, probably a mesquite.

***Epicauta magnomaculata* Martin, n. sp.**

Body black, scarcely shining, closely punctate and covered with a decumbent cinerous pile of a slightly yellowish cast. Head slightly wider than base of thorax, closely punctate with cinerous pile. Toward the vertex the median suture along which the pile is parted is broadened somewhat and without pile. Thorax campanulate, a very little longer than wide, more coarsely punctate than the head, with two impunctate bare areas, one each side of the median line which is widened like the head suture to an impunctate area between the spots. Elytra not noticeably widened behind as in *maculata*, closely punctate, cinero-pubescent, with irregularly disposed denuded impunctate areas forming black spots, the average of which are equal in diameter to the distal extremity of the tibia. Toward the base and in the costal region these spots decrease in size and are nearer together. Abdominal segments less distinctly maculate than in *maculata* owing to encroachment of the pile on the bare areas. In the male on the second abdominal segment near the center of the hind edge, there is a black spot which is covered with black hairs, on the third, fourth, and fifth segments a similar but larger spot appears, these markings becoming larger and triangular caudad. Tip of the sixth segment black, with black hairs, and distinctly notched.

These median abdominal spots are lacking in the female which has on the abdomen a mixture of black and cinerous hairs, giving the female abdomen a slightly darker cast than that of the male. Length of the type, 20 mm. with a width of 5 mm.

This species is strikingly different from its nearest relative *maculata* Say, being narrower behind, with the elytra less convex transversely and longitudinally, the shape being more nearly that of *vittata* Fab. The black spots of the elytra are larger and farther apart than in *maculata* from which it also differs in its bimaculate thorax.

The type male (No. 2755) and the allotype female (No. 2757) are in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. Paratypes are also in the same collection. The specimens were presented to the Academy by Mr. Joseph R. Slevin, curator of herpetology, and were collected at Ballarat, Inyo County, California, in the Panamint Valley, May, 1931.

A LOCALITY FOR ARGYNNIS BEHRENSII EDWS.

On June 26 I made a short pleasure trip into the mountains of Mendocino County and, as usual, I took my net along with me.

About a mile north of the little town of Navarro, where we stopped for lunch, I took two male *Argynnis* but paid no further attention to them and, as I am very much in arrears with my setting, they were stored with the other specimens until I had an opportunity to set them.

On June 9 my friend, J. D. Gunder, wrote me to try the mountains east of Point Arena for *Argynnis behrensii*. Time would not then permit it. Somehow I did not stop to think that these two *Argynnis* might be the rare species he had reference to, until, on the 11th of July, Mr. Gunder wrote again and told me that Mr. Cottle had found this species near Point Arena.

About this time I started mounting my catch from the Navarro trip. Later, in July, when a friend offered me the opportunity of going with him on a short trip up the Coast, I once more worked the mountains east of Point Arena and succeeded in securing a few more specimens, but I was a trifle late for them. I set these immediately and compared them with the specimens from my previous trip and found them to be the same species. Evidently its range is not confined to the Coast side of the mountains, and future research will be necessary to actually establish its territory.

Mr. Gunder is to be commended for digging into the old records and thereby being instrumental in the rediscovery of species, traces of which have been more or less lost.—R. F. Sternitzky.